

AIDS TO OBSTETRICS. By Leslie Williams, M.D., M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. viii + 270; figs. 12. 10s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1956.

THE format of this little book remains unaltered, although sections of it have been rewritten since the last edition.

As the author himself points out, it should in no way be used as a textbook of obstetrics, but it has served generations of medical students, in previous editions, as a rapid means of revision, and it can be confidently predicted that it will continue to do so, due allowance being made for regional and national differences in emphasis.

The few simple illustrations add considerable value to the text—is it too much to hope that these might be increased in number in future editions without unduly raising the price? G. B-L.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISORDERS. Edited by Peter Martin, V.R.D., M.Chir., F.R.C.S.(Ed.), R. B. Lynn, F.R.C.S., J. Henry Dible, M.B., F.R.C.P., and Ian Aird, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 856; figs. 568. 110s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1956.

THIS is a very thorough, simple, and yet erudite book on peripheral vascular disorders, written by four editors and five other contributors. The contributors consist of one anatomist, one physiologist, one pathologist, one anaesthetist, one radiologist, and three surgeons, an all-round team of competent authority.

The opening chapters are on the anatomy of the peripheral vascular system and its nervous supply, and it is divided into two parts. The first chapter has one of the best descriptions available of the innervation of peripheral blood vessels, the fruit of meticulous work, by Professor Mitchell of Manchester. It is long, beautifully illustrated and well written. The next chapter is by the same author. It is put in for the sake of completeness only and contains an adequate account of the ordinary anatomy of the peripheral arteries. The physiology is done in the lucid style which we are accustomed to find in the writings of Professor Henry Barcroft, and summarizes very well the large amount of work that he has done on this subject, and a clear account of the literature.

This sound, scientific introduction typifies the careful and exact way in which the authors have set about their task. Sound anatomical and physiological teaching enriches almost every chapter.

The clinical section on the methods of examination and investigation of cases is done well and illustrated with clear diagrams. It is in chapters such as this that the high cost of colour reproductions is to be regretted, for so much could have been added to the value of these and other chapters by the liberal use of colour photographs, reproduced large enough to show clearly the clinical appearances. The radiology is clearly described and excellently illustrated.

The chapters on pure pathology are written by Professor Dible, again with the clarity and dogmatism that characterizes his writing and makes it so valuable to the student. The chapters that follow the pathological exposition deal with the clinical and surgical aspects of athero-sclerosis and Buerger's disease. They give excellent accounts of the clinical manifestation of the disease, though do not deal with the surgical technique. This is left to the last chapter.

The section on embolism, on trauma of peripheral vessels, on Reynaud's phenomenon are interesting. The description of the vaso-spastic responses to environmental cold are clearly set forth, but the chapter suffers a little from not having taken into account the recent work of Greenfield and his colleagues on the fundamental nature of the responses to cold.

Some of the chapters are rather slender and, again, seem to have been put in for the sake of completeness rather than as a contribution, comparable to the rest of the book, on the subject in which they deal. The chapter on vascular affections of the superior thoracic outlet and on coagulation of the blood appear to have this character. These are minor criticisms and, taken as a whole, the book is an outstanding and up-to-date contribution to our studies in an important and expanding field of clinical science. Everyone dealing with these increasingly common diseases should buy this book.

H. W. R.